

## SA State Conference Update

12 March 2021



ISOLATED CHILDREN'S  
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

ADVOCATING  
FOR RURAL  
AND REMOTE  
EDUCATION



L to R: Melanie Lewis, Penny Rasheed, Jill Greenfield, Michelle Hilder, Lisa Slade, Belinda Hatcher, Kerry Williams, Katrina Morris.

Federal Vice President Sally Sullivan and Federal Secretary Suzanne Wilson attended the SA State Conference in Port Augusta, South Australia. The day dawned bright and sunny, setting the scene for a superb Conference held at the Central Oval Complex.

The Conference started promptly at 9 am with the National Anthem followed by President Jill Greenfield's warm welcome. The Conference was opened by Ellen Litchfield, who told her story of 'My Education Pathway', which was most interesting. The guest speaker, Pauly Daniels of Daniel-Tessari Horse Reflections, captivated the audience with his deep-thinking and self-deprecation humorous anecdotes of his life as a stockman, ringer, station hand, stock agent and teaching horsemanship.

There were 14 agenda motions and one supplementary motion, all of which were carried except for one that was deemed covered by an earlier motion. Motions came from the Early Childhood Education and Care, which centred on early identification and diagnosis of children's developmental delays and what is or is not available in SA from Child and Family Health Services (CaFHS) and the Royal Flying Doctors, (RFDS). Distance Education motions (5) included the DETA (3), AIC being extended to 4-year-olds (1) and year 7 in SOTA (1). Border restrictions and the need for a nationally consistent and long-term approach to them for boarding students were the only Boarding Schools and Hostels motion. The Supplementary motion concerned students having access to permanent bus seats to attend the family's school of choice rather than having to attend the school deemed nearest to them.

The final motion, when carried, informed us that Port Augusta would host the 2022 ICPA State conference.

The totally unexpected and closely guarded secret was a testimonial to Joanna Gibson and the awarding of State Life Membership. Joanna conceded that the wool had been pulled over her eyes – for once! A lovely celebration of all the years of her hard work.

The AGM followed, and it was very pleasing to see a near-full executive and State Council be formed with a re-elected Jill Greenfield at the helm as President and our own lovely, Lisa as Vice President. Unfortunately, no Secretary was elected.

The social functions provided great opportunities to catch up with old friends and quickly make new ones.

There is no space here to mention all the speakers but in conclusion, the Conference was very enjoyable, thought-provoking, and the convenors did a marvellous job organising it. Thank you, South Australia!